

REMARKS

In the Final Office Action dated April 9, 2004, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4, 6-9 and 11-13 as being unpatentable over Bharucha in view of Lyons '798, and claims 5,10 and 14 as being unpatentable over Bharucha and Lyons '798 in view of Lyons '196. The Examiner's reasons for these rejections are considered to be in error and reconsideration in view of the following arguments is requested.

Regarding claim1, the Examiner contended that the claimed step (b) is equivalent to the element 21 in Fig. 2 of Bharucha. However, the element 21 is actually described in the Bharucha patent as a signal classifier to identify voice, fax and voice-band calls (see col. 4, lines 57-58), all of which are equivalent to the claimed speech and voice band signals, and none of which correspond to the claimed ISDN digital signals. The Examiner also contended that Ref 25 of Fig. 2 of Bharucha is ISDN signal, but this Ref 25 is clearly labeled as FAX, which is one of the speech and voice band signals (see page 6, lines 15-25 of the present specification). Consequently, this element 21 does not have a function for judging whether each input signal is a speech and voice band signal or an ISDN digital signal as explicitly required for the step (b) in claim 1.

The Examiner also contended that the claimed step (c) is equivalent to the elements 23 and 27 in Fig. 2 of Bharucha. This is not so. The claimed step (c) requires to determine the most appropriate compression scheme using both the silence information and the signal type information. In this regard, the element 23 is just a voice compression and the element 27 is just a Fax Re-modulation, neither one of which has a function for determining the most appropriate compression scheme by using both the silence information and the signal type information. Note in particular that in Bharucha, the silence detection module 32 is incorporated after the element 23 so that the elements 23 and 27 cannot possibly use any silence information. Moreover, no signal type information is provided from the signal classifier 21 to these elements 23 and 27, so that these elements 23 and 27 clearly do not have any function for dynamically changing a compression scheme of each input signal into a most appropriate compression by using the silence information and the signal type information, as explicitly required for the step (c) in claim

1. Note also that Bharucha completely fails to disclose any teaching for selecting the most appropriate compression scheme from a plurality of different compression schemes with different compression rates according to the signal type information.

The Examiner correctly admitted that Bharucha fails to disclose the step (d) of claim 1, but then improperly contended that this feature is disclosed in Lyons '798. However, Lyons '798 only discloses the AAL2/SSCS processing on voice data encoded by a single compression scheme, without using any silence information or the signal type information. Lyons '798 fails to disclose any teachings for assembling variable length packets, such as AAL-2 packets, from signals compressed by a plurality of different compression schemes with different compression rates, by using both the silence information and the signal type information, as explicitly required for the step (d) in claim 1.

The Examiner also contended that the claimed steps (h), (i) and (j) are equivalent to the elements 34 and 33 in Fig. 2 of Bharucha. Applicants submit that this view is in error. The element 34 is actually described as a marking module to mark cells with an indication of a level of speech actively occurring in data stored in a particular cell (col. 5, lines 18-20), while the element 33 is actually described as a silence insertion module to identify how many cells are missing and where the missing silence cells may be re-inserted (col. 6, lines 13-15). These elements 34 and 33 clearly do not have any function for judging a signal compression scheme of each received signal, as explicitly required for the step (h) in claim 1. These elements 34 and 33 also do not have any function for expanding each received signal by using both the silence section information and the judged signal compression scheme, as explicitly required for the step (i) in claim 1. These elements 34 and 33 also do not have any function for reproducing the silence sections by using the silence section information obtained at a time of disassembling the received packets, as explicitly required for the step (j) in claim 1. Clearly, Bharucha does not teach or suggest the claimed steps (h), (i) and (j) of claim 1.

Thus, the combination of Bharucha and Lyons '798 fails to disclose any teaching corresponding to the steps (b), (c), (d), (h), (i) and (j) of claim 1. Bharucha and Lyons '798 in combination do not teach the subject matter of claim 1. Claim 1 is patentable over Bharucha and

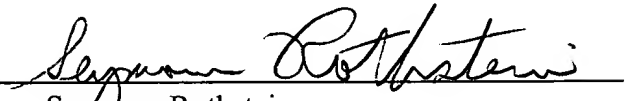
Lyons '798 and should be allowed.

The same arguments also apply to claims 2-6, which depend from claim 1, as well as the transmitting side device claims 7-11 and the receiving side device claims 12-14, that have elements corresponding to steps of the method claims 1-6.

In conclusion, it is submitted that present claims 1-14 are patentably distinct over the prior art of record. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application are solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: March 23, 2005

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